UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/WG.4/1
5 November 1992

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion
of Trading Opportunities for
Developing Countries
First session
Geneva, 14 December 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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GE.92-52845 (E)

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with past practice in UNCTAD, it is proposed that the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group consist of seven members (a chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur), to be elected from among the core membership* in accordance with the following geographical distribution:

Lists A and C combined	-	4
List B	-	2
List D	-	1

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I follows the format agreed upon at the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 17 July 1992. As provided for in the calendar of meetings, the Working Group will have available five working days from 14 December to 18 December 1992. Throughout this session interpretation facilities will be available. At the first meeting, on 14 December 1992, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the time of the Working Group will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda, as agreed in the consultations of the Secretary-General.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Working Group

With a view to assisting the Working Group in establishing its work programme, the secretariat has prepared a note entitled "Expansion of trading opportunities for developing countries" (TD/B/WG.4/2). The note addressed the three major factors on which depend the trading opportunities for developing countries. The first is the current economic environment and growth of the world economy. Reference is made here to policy initiatives which affect medium- and long-term trading prospects for developing countries. Changes in the access of exports from developing countries to foreign markets constitute the second factor. The issues covered include the role of trade measures (tariff and non-tariff barriers, restrictive business practices, and trade among developing countries); of trade promotion and marketing; the improvement of trade-related information; the implications of structural adjustment policies, of trade liberalization measures and of regional integration arrangements. The third factor concerns the efforts made by the developing countries to enhance their own export supply capabilities. The issues covered include consideration of the national policies needed to establish and/or develop competitive export sectors, i.e. trade policy, the exchange rate mechanism, technology, national institutions, foreign direct investment, etc.

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* In paragraph 77 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference specified that "... the core membership of these working groups will compromise all interested countries, which will nominate the relevant national experts. Other countries may participate in an observer capacity".

Attention is drawn to paragraph 8 of the terms of reference of the Working Group which states that: "The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups".

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group

Paragraph 10 of the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group states: "The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less". A draft of provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group will be submitted for consideration in the light of the decisions of the Working Group with respect to its work programme.

Item 5: Other business

Attention is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference which specifies that: "In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences". Paragraph 4 also refers to the participation of non-governmental actors. The Working Group is invited to consider the participation of such non-governmental actors in the work of the Group.

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board

Paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Working Group states that the Working Group "may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board".